

Lucca Classica

Lucca Classica, organized by the Associazione Musicale Lucchese, returns this year with more than sixty appointments in five days, from 23 to 27 April, which will animate incredible performance spaces, indoors and outdoors, throughout the town. Bands will parade through the streets of town. Villa Guinigi and Palazzo Mansi museums will host concerts, as will the Cathedral and the Puccini Museum, the Church of San Salvatore, and the Oratorio degli Angeli Custodi. This year the festival has been honored with the High Patronage of the European Parliament, which means that more than ever, Lucca is recognized as a city of music.

The 2025 Lucca Classica Prize goes to Nicola Piovani, who will offer an autobiographical concert at Teatro del Giglio Giacomo Puccini on Saturday 26 April at 9.15 pm. Piovani's career includes over forty years of dedication to music, cinema, and theatre. He has collaborated with the greatest Italian film directors, such as Monicelli, Taviani, Loy, Tornatore, and Fellini, and won the Oscar for his sound track to *La vita è bella*. Along with Maestro Piovani at the piano will be Marina Cesari (sax), Marco Loddo (double bass), and Vittorino Naso (percussion).

Lucca Classica this year also offers reflections on themes of contemporary social relevance. The show entitled *Ladre di sabbia* narrates the difficult situation of women in Capo Verde through the music of Calamani Quintet Orchestra and the artistry of sand painter Gabriella Compagnone. From Fondazione Casa dello Spirito e delle Arti come instruments made using wood obtained from migrant vessels.

Sistema Ambiente has collaborated with Tetraktis Percussions in creating instruments made from recycled, recuperated materials such as glass, plastic, wood, and even paper.

The closing event of the festival (27 April at 6.15 pm) promises to be especially exciting, with the performance at Teatro del Giglio Giacomo Puccini by the orchestra and dancers of the *Notte della Taranta*. They will surely enchant the public with the compelling rhythm of the pizzica.

For reasons of space, only a few of the many events could be listed on the Grapevine music calendar. Readers are invited to consult the complete program at www.luccaclassica.it. Tickets for the various events, many of them free, will soon be available at the Vivaticket platform and at Lucca box offices.

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